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THE

G H O S T. K

BY THE AUTHOR.



L O N D O N :

Printed for the AUTHOR, and Sold by WILLIAM FLEXNEY,
near Gray's-Inn Gate, Holborn.

M.DCC.LXII.

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LONDON

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THE

GHOST.

WITH eager search to dart the soul,
W Curiously vain, from Pole to Pole,
And from the Planets wand'ring spheres
T'extort the number of our years,
And whether all those years shall flow
Serenely smooth, and free from woe,
Or rude Misfortune shall deform
Our life, with one continual storm;
Or if the Scene shall motley be,
Alternate Joy and Misery,
Is a desire which, more or less,
All men must feel, tho' few confess.

B

HENCE ev'ry place and ev'ry age
Affords subsistence to the Sage,
Who free from this world and it's cares,
Holds an acquaintance with the Stars,
From whom he gains intelligence
Of things to come some ages hence,
Which unto friends at easy rates
He readily communicates.

AT its first rise, which all agree on,
This noble Science was CHALDEAN.
That antient people, as they fed
Their flocks upon the Mountain's head,
Gaz'd on the Stars, observ'd their motions,
And suck'd in Astrologic notions,
Which they so eagerly pursue,
As folks are apt whate'er is new,
That things below at random rove
Whilst they're consulting things above;
And when they now so poor were grown
That they'd no houses of their own,
They made bold with their friends the Stars,
And prudently made use of their's.

To EGYPT from CHALDEE it travell'd,
And Fate at MEMPHIS was unravell'd,
Th' exotic Science soon struck root,
And flourish'd into high repute.
Each learned Priest, O strange to tell,
Could circles make, and cast a spell,
Could read and write, and taught the Nation
The holy art of Divination.
Nobles themselves, for at that time
Knowledge in Nobles was no crime,
Could talk as learned as the Priest,
And prophesie as much at least.
Hence all the fortune-telling Crew,
Whose crafty skill mars Nature's hue,
Who in vile tatters, with smirck'd face
Run up and down from place to place,
To gratify their friends' desires,
From BAMPFIELD CAREW, to MOLL SQUIRES,
Are rightly term'd EGYPTIANS all,
Whom we, mistaking, GYPSIES call.

THE GRECIAN Sages borrow'd this,
As they did other Sciences,

From fertile EGYPT, tho' the loan
They had not honesty to own.
DODONA's Oaks, inspir'd by JOVE,
A learned and prophetic Grove,
'Turn'd vegetable Necromancers,
And to all comers gave their answers;
At DELPHOS, to APOLLO dear,
All men the voice of Fate might hear,
Each subtle Priest on three-legg'd stool,
To take in wise men, play'd the fool.
A Mystery, so made for gain,
E'en now in fashion must remain.
Enthusiasts never will let drop
What brings such business to their shop,
And that Great Saint, we WH-TF--LD call,
Keeps up the HUMBUG SPIRITUAL.

AMONG the ROMANS not a Bird
Without a Prophecy was heard;
Fortunes of Empires often hung
On the Magician Magpye's tongue,
And ev'ry Crow was to the State
A sure interpreter of Fate.

Prophets, embodied in a College,
(Time out of mind your seat of knowledge,
For Genius never fruit can bear
Unless it first is planted there,
And solid Learning never falls
Without the verge of College walls)
Infallible accounts would keep
When it was best to watch or sleep,
To eat or drink, to go or stay,
And when to fight or run away,
When matters were for action ripe
By looking at a *double tripe* ;
When Emperors would live or die
They in an *Ass's skull* could spy,
When Gen'als would their station keep
Or turn their backs, in *hearts of sheep*.
In matters, whether small or great,
In private families or state,
As amongst us, the holy Seer
Officiously would interfere,
With pious arts and rev'rend skill
Would bend Lay Bigots to his will,
Would help or injure foes or friends,
Just as it serv'd his private ends.

Whether in honest way of trade
Traps for Virginity were laid,
Or if, to make their party great,
Designs were form'd against the State,
Regardless of the Common Weal,
By Int'rest led which they call zeal,
Into the scale was always thrown,
The will of Heav'n to back *their own*.

ENGLAND, a happy land we know,
Where Follies naturally grow,
Where without Culture they arise,
And tow'r above the common size ;
ENGLAND, a fortune-telling host,
As num'rous as the Stars could boast,
MATRONS, who tofs the Cup, and see
The grounds of Fate in grounds of Tea,
Who vers'd in ev'ry modest lore,
Can a lost Maidenhead restore,
Or if their Pupils rather chuse it
Can shew the readiest way to lose it ;
GYPSIES, who ev'ry ill can cure,
Except the ill of being poor,

T H E G H O S T.

7

Who charms 'gainst Love and Agues fell,
 Who can in Henrooft set a spell,
 Prepar'd by arts, to them best known,
 To catch all feet except their own,
 Who as to Fortune can unlock it,
 As easily as pick a pocket ;
 SCOTCHMEN, who in their Country's right
 Possess the gift of *second-sight*,
 Who (when their barren heaths they quit,
 Sure argument of *prudent* wit,
 Which reputation to maintain,
 They never venture back again)
 By lies prophetic heap up riches,
 And boast the luxury of breeches.

AMONG the rest, in former years,
 CAMPBELL, illustrious name, appears,
 Great Heroe of futurity,
 Who *blind* could ev'ry thing *foresee*,
 Who *dumb* could ev'ry thing *foretel*,
 Who, Fate with equity to sell,
 Always dealt out the will of Heaven,
 According to what price was given.

OF SCOTTISH race, in HIGHLANDS born,
Possess'd with native pride and scorn,
He hither came, by custom led,
To curse the hands which gave him bread.
With want of truth, and want of sense,
Amplly made up by impudence,
(A *succedaneum*, which we find,
In common use with all mankind,
Carefs'd and favour'd too by those,
Whose heart with Patriot feelings glows,
Who FOOLISHLY, where'er dispers'd,
Still place their native Country first;
For ENGLISHMEN alone have sense,
To give a *stranger* preference,
Whilst modest merit of their own,
Is left in poverty to groan)
CAMPBELL foretold, just what he wou'd,
And left the Stars to make it good,
On whom he had impress'd such awe,
His dictates current pass'd for LAW;
Submissive all his Empire own'd;
No Star durst smile, when CAMPBELL frown'd.

T H E G H O S T.

9

THIS Sage deceas'd, for all must die,
 And CAMPBELL's no more safe than I,
 No more than I can guard the heart,
 When Death shall hurl the fatal dart;
 Succeeded ripe in art and years,
Another fav'rite of the spheres,
Another and *Another* came,
 Of equal skill, and equal fame;
 As white each wand, as black each gown,
 As long each beard, as wise each frown,
 In ev'ry thing so like, you'd swear,
 CAMPBELL himself was fitting there.
 To *all* the happy Art was known,
 To tell *our* fortunes, make *their own*.

SEATED in Garret, for you know,
 The nearer to the Stars we go,
 The greater we esteem his art,
 Fools curious flock'd from ev'ry part.
 The Rich, the Poor, the Maid, the Married,
 And those who could not walk, were carried.

D

THE BUTLER, hanging down his head,
By *Chamber-Maid*, or *Cook-Maid* led,
Enquires, if from his friend the Moon,
He has advice of pilfer'd spoon.

THE COURT-BRED WOMAN OF CONDITION,
(Who, to approve her disposition,
As much superior, as her birth,
To those compos'd of common earth,
With double spirit must engage
In ev'ry folly of the age)
The *honourable* arts would buy,
To pack the Cards, and cog a Die.

THE PARSON too (for now and then,
PARSONS are just like other men,
And here and there a *grave* DIVINE
Has Passions such as yours and mine)
Burning with *holy* lust to know
When FATE Preferment will bestow,
'Fraid of detection, not of sin,
With circumspection sneaking in,

T H E G H O S T.

11

To *Conj'rer*, as he does to *Whore*,
Thro' some bye Alley, or Back-door,
With the same caution *Orthodox*,
Consults the *Stars*, and gets a *Pox*.

THE CITIZEN, in fraud grown old,
Who knows no Deity but Gold,
Worn out, and gasping now for breath,
A Med'cine wants to keep off Death;
Would know, if THAT he cannot have,
What Coins are current in the grave;
If, when the Stocks (which by *his* pow'r,
Would rise or fall in half an hour,
For, tho' unthought of and unseen,
He work'd the springs behind the screen)
By *his* directions came about,
And rose to *Par*, he should sell out;
Whether he safely might or no,
Replace it in the Funds *below*.

By all address'd, believ'd, and paid,
Many pursu'd the thriving trade,
And great in reputation grown,
Successive held the MAGIC throne.

Favour'd by ev'ry 'darling passion,
'The love of Novelty and Fashion,
Ambition, Av'rice, Lust, and Pride,
Riches pour'd in on ev'ry side.
But when the prudent Laws thought fit,
To curb this insolence of Wit;
When Senates wisely had Provided,
Decreed, Enacted, and Decided,
That no such vile and upstart elves,
Should have more knowledge than themselves,
When Fines and Penalties were laid
To stop the progress of the trade,
And Stars no longer could dispense
With *honour* farther influence,
And Wizards (which must be confest,
Was of more force than all the rest)
No certain way to tell had got,
Which were Informers, and which not,
Affrighted SAGES were perforce,
Oblig'd to steer some other course.
By various ways these *Sons of Chance*,
Their Fortunes labour'd to advance,
Well-knowing by unerring rules,
KNAVES starve not in the *Land of Fools*.

SOME with high Titles and Degrees,
Which wise Men borrow when they please,
Without or trouble or expence,
PHYSICIANS instantly commence,
And proudly boast an equal skill
With those who claim the *right* to kill.

OTHERS about the Countries roam,
(For not ONE thought of going *home*)
With pistol and adopted leg
Prepar'd at once to rob or beg.

SOME, the more subtle of their race,
(Who felt some touch of *Coward* Grace,
Who TYBURN to avoid had wit,
But never fear'd deserving it)
Came to their *Brother* SM-LL-T's aid,
And carried on the CRITIC trade.

ATTACH'D to Letters and the Muse
Some Verses wrote, and *some* wrote News.
Those each revolving Month are seen,
The Heroes of a *Magazine* ;

E

These ev'ry morning great appear
 In LEDGER, or in GAZETTEER;
 Spreading the falshood of the day,
 By turns for F-D-N and for S-y;
 Like SWISS, their force is always laid
 On that side where they best are paid.
 Hence mighty PRODIGES arise;
 And daily MONSTERS strike our eyes,
Wonders, to propagate the trade,
 More strange than ever BAKER made,
 Are hawk'd about from street to street,
 And Fools believe, whilst Liars eat.

Now armies in the Air engage
 To fright a superstitious age;
 Now Comets thro' the Æther range
 In Governments portending change;
 Now Rivers to the Ocean fly,
 So quick, they leave their channels dry;
 Now monstrous Whales on LAMBETH shore,
 Drink the THAMES dry, and thirst for more;
 And ev'ry now and then appears
 An IRISH Savage, numb'ring years

More than those happy Sages cou'd,
Who drew their breath before the flood.
Now, to the wonder of all people,
A *Church* is left without a *Steeple*;
A *Steeple* now is left in lurch,
And mourns departure of the *Church*,
Which borne on wings of mighty wind
Remov'd a furlong off we find.
Now, wrath on Cattle to discharge,
Hail stones as deadly fall and large
As those which were on EGYPT sent,
At once their crime and punishment,
Or those which, as the Prophet writes,
Fell on the necks of AMORITES,
When struck with wonder and amaze,
The *Sun* suspended stay'd to gaze,
And, from her duty longer kept,
In AJALON his *Sister* slept.

BUT if such things no more engage
The Taste of a politer age,
To help them out in time of need
Another TOFFS must *Rabbits* breed.

Each pregnant Female trembling hears,
 And, overcome with spleen and fears,
 Consults her faithful glass no more,
 But madly bounding o'er the floor,
 Feels hairs all o'er her body grow,
 By FANCY turn'd into a *Dæ*.

Now, to promote their private ends,
 NATURE her usual course suspends,
 And varies from the stated plan
 Observ'd e'er since the World began.
Bodies, (which foolishly we thought,
 By Custom's servile maxims taught,
 Needed a regular supply,
 And without nourishment must die);
 With craving appetites, and sense
 Of Hunger easily dispense,
 And, pliant to *their* wond'rous skill,
 Are taught, like *watches*, to stand still
Uninjur'd, for a month or more;
 Then go on as they did before.
 The Novel takes, the Tale succeeds,
 Amply supplies its author's needs,

THE GHOST.

17

And BETTY CANNING is at least,
With GASCOYNE's help, a fix months feast.

WHILST, in contempt of all our pains,
The Tyrant SUPERSTITION reigns
Imperious in the heart of Man,
And warps his thoughts from Nature's plan;
Whilst fond CREDULITY, who ne'er
The weight of wholesome doubts could bear,
To Reason and Herself unjust,
Takes all things blindly up on trust;
Whilst CURIOSITY, whose rage
No Mercy shews to Sex or Age,
Must be indulg'd at the expence
Of *Judgment, Truth, and Common Sense*;
Impostures cannot but prevail,
And when *old Miracles* grow stale,
JUGGLERS will still the art pursue,
And entertain the World with *New*.

FOR THEM, obedient to their will,
And trembling at their mighty skill,
Sad SPIRITS, summon'd from the tomb,
Glide ghastly glaring thro' the gloom.

F

In all the usual Pomp of storms,
 In horrid customary forms,
 A Wolf, a Bear, a Horse, an Ape,
 As Fear and Fancy give them shape,
 Tormented with despair and pain,
 They roar, they yell, and clank the chains.
 FOLLY and GUILT (for GUILT, howe'er
 The face of Courage it may wear,
 Is still a Coward at the heart)
 At fear-created phantoms start.
 The PRIEST, that very word implies
 That he's both innocent and wise,
 Yet fears to travel in the dark,
 Unless escorted by his CLERK.

BUT let not ev'ry Bungler deem
 Too lightly of so deep a scheme.
 For reputation of the *Art*,
 Each GHOST must act a proper part,
 Observe *Decorum's* needful grace,
 And keep the laws of *Time* and *Place*,
 Must change with happy variation
 His manners with his situation.

What in the Country might pass down,
 Would be impertinent in Town.
 No SPIRIT of *discretion* HERE
 Can think of breeding awe and fear,
 'Twill serve the purpose more by half
 To make the Congregation laugh.
 We want no ensigns of surprize,
 Locks stiff with gore, and sawcer eyes,
 Give *us* an entertaining *Sprite*,
 Gentle, Familiar, and Polite,
 One who appears in such a form
 As might an holy Hermit warm,
 Or who on former schemes refines,
 And only talks by sounds and signs,
 Who will not to the eye appear
 But pays her visit to the ear,
 And knocks so gently, 'twould not fright
 A Lady in the darkest Night.
 Such is *Our FANNY*, whose good will,
 Which cannot in the Grave lie still,
 Brings her on Earth to entertain
 Her Friends and Lovers in COCK-LANE.

END OF THE FIRST BOOK.



THE
G H O S T.
B O O K II.

A SACRED standard Rule we find
By Poets held time out of mind,
To offer at APOLLO's shrine,
And call on One, or All the NINE.

THIS Custom, thro' a *Bigot* zeal,
Which MODERNS of *fine Taste* must feel,
For those who wrote in days of yore,
Adopted stands, like many more,
Tho' ev'ry Cause, which then conspir'd
To make it practis'd and admir'd,
Yielding to Time's destructive course,
For ages past hath lost its force.

WITH *antient* Bards an INVOCATION
 Was a true act of Adoration,
 Of Worship an essential part,
 And not a formal piece of Art,
 Of poultry reading a Parade,
 A dull Solemnity in trade,
 A pious Fever taught to burn
 An hour or two, to serve a turn.

THEY talk'd not of CASTALIAN SPRINGS,
 By way of saying *pretty things*,
 As *we* dress out our flimsy Rhimes;
 'Twas the RELIGION of the *Times*,
 And they believ'd that *holy* stream
 With greater force made FANCY teem,
 Reckon'd by all a true specific,
 To make the barren brain prolific.
 Thus ROMISH CHURCH (a scheme which bears
 Not half so much excuse as theirs)
 Since FAITH *implicitly* hath taught her,
 Reveres the force of *Holy Water*.

THE PAGAN SYSTEM, whether true
 Or false, its strength, like *Buildings*, drew

From many parts dispos'd to bear
 In one great Whole, their proper share.
 Each God of *eminent* degree,
 To some vast *Beam* compar'd might be;
 Each GODLING was a *Peg*, or rather
 A *Cramp*, to keep the *Beams* together.
 And Man as safely might pretend
 From Jove the *thunder-bolt* to rend,
 As with an impious pride aspire
 To rob APOLLO of his *Lyre*.

With settled faith and pious awe,
 Establish'd by the voice of Law,
 Then POETS to the MUSES came
 And from their Altars caught the flame.
 GENIUS, with PHOEBUS for his guide,
 The MUSE ascending by his side,
 With tow'ring pinions dar'd to soar,
 Where *Eye* could scarcely strain before.

BUT why should WE, who cannot feel
 These glowings of a *Pagan* zeal,
 That wild *enthusiastic* force,
 By which above her common course,

NATURE in *Exstasy* up-borne,
Look'd down on earthly things with scorn;
Who have no more regard, 'tis known,
For *their* Religion than *our own*,
And feel not half so fierce a flame
At CLIO's as at FISHER's name;
Who know these boasted *sacred streams*
Were mere romantic idle dreams,
That THAMES has waters clear as those
Which on the top of PINDUS rose,
And that the FANCY to refine,
Water's not half so good as Wine;
Who know, if Profit strikes our eye,
Should we drink HELICON quite dry,
Th' whole fountain would not thither lead
So soon as one poor jug from TWEED,
Who, if to raise poetic fire
The Pow'r of *Beauty* we require,
In any public place can view
More than the GRECIANS ever knew;
If *Wit* into the scale is thrown,
Can boast a LENOX of our own,
Why should *we* servile customs chuse,
And court an *antiquated Muse*?

No matter why — to ask a *Reason*
In PEDANT BIGOTRY is Treason.

IN the broad, beaten, turnpike-road
Of *hackney'd Panegyric Ode*,
No *Modern Poet* dares to ride
Without APOLLO by his side,
Nor in a *Sonnet* take the air,
Unless his *Lady Muse* be there.
SHE, from some *Amaranthine* grove,
Where little Loves and Graces rove,
The Laurel to *my Lord* must bear,
Or Garlands make for *Whores* to wear;
SHE with soft *Elegeiac* verse
Must grace some *mighty Villain's* hearse,
Or for some *Infant*, doom'd by Fate
To wallow in a large estate,
With Rhimes the Cradle must adorn,
To tell the World a *Fool* is born.

SINCE then our CRITIC LORDS expect,
No hardy Poet should reject
Establish'd maxims, or presume
To place much better in *their* room,

T H E G H O S T .

25

By Nature fearful, I submit,
 And in this dearth of Sense and Wit,
 With *nothing done*, and *little said*,
 (By wild excursive FANCY led,
 Into a second Book thus far,
 Like some unwary *Traveller*,
 Whom varied scenes of wood and lawn,
 With treacherous delight have drawn;
 Deluded from his purpos'd way,
 Whom ev'ry step leads more astray;
 Who gazing round can no where spy,
 Or house, or friendly cottage nigh,
 And resolution seems to lack
 To venture forward or go back)
 Invoke some GODDESS to descend
 And help me to my journey's end.
 Tho' conscious — — all the while
 Hears the petition with a smile,
 Before the glass her charms unfolds,
 And in *herself* my *Muse* beholds.

TRUTH, GODDESS of celestial birth,
 But little lov'd, or known on earth,

H

Whose pow'r but seldom rules the heart,
Whose name, with hypocritic art,
An errant stalking horse is made,
A snug pretence to drive a trade,
An instrument convenient grown
To plant, more firmly, FALSHOOD'S throne,
As Rebels varnish o'er their cause
With specious colouring of Laws,
And *pious* Traitors draw the knife
In the KING'S *Name* against his *life*,
Whether (from *Cities* far away,
Where *Fraud* and *Falshood* scorn thy sway)
The faithful Nymph's and Shepherd's pride,
With LOVE and VIRTUE by thy side,
Your hours in harmless joys are spent
Amongst the Children of CONTENT;
Or, fond of gaiety and sport,
You tread the round of ENGLAND'S COURT,
Howe'er my LORD may frowning go,
And treat the *Stranger* as a *Foe*,
Sure to be found a welcome guest
In GEORGE'S and in CHARLOTTE'S breast;
If, in the giddy hours of Youth,
My constant Soul adher'd to TRUTH;

If, from the Time I first wrote Man,
 I still pursued thy sacred plan,
 Tempted by Interest in vain
 To wear mean Falshood's golden chain;
 If, for a season drawn away,
 Starting from Virtue's path astray,
 All low disguise I scorn'd to try,
 And dar'd to sin, but not to lie;
 Hither, O hither, condescend,
 ETERNAL TRUTH, thy steps to bend,
 And favour *Him*, who ev'ry hour
 Confesses and obeys thy pow'r!

BUT come not with that easy mien
 By which you won the *lively* DEAN,
 Nor yet assume that Strumpet air
 Which RABELAIS taught Thee first to wear,
 Nor yet that arch ambiguous face
 Which with CERVANTES gave thee grace,
 But come in sacred vesture clad,
 Solemnly dull, and truly sad!

FAR from thy seemly Matron train
 Be Idiot MIRTH, and LAUGHTER vain!

For WIT and HUMOUR, which pretend
At once to please us and amend,
They are not for my present turn,
Let them remain in *France* with STERNE.

OF Noblest *City Parents* born,
Whom Wealth and Dignities adorn,
Who still one constant tenor keep,
Not quite awake, nor quite asleep;
With THEE let formal DULNESS come,
And deep ATTENTION, ever dumb,
Who on her lips her fingers lays,
Whilst every circumstance she weighs,
Whose down-cast Eye is often found
Bent without motion to the ground,
Or to some outward thing confin'd
Remits no image to the mind,
No pregnant mark of meaning bears,
But stupid without Vision stares;
Thy steps let GRAVITY attend,
Wisdom's and *Truth's* unerring friend.
For *One* may see with half an eye,
That GRAVITY can never lie;

And his arch'd brow, pull'd o'er his eyes,
With solemn proof proclaims him *Wife*.

FREE from all waggeries and sports,
The produce of luxurious *Courts*,
Where Sloth and Lust enervate Youth,
Come *Thou*, a down-right *City* TRUTH;
The CITY, which we ever find
A sober pattern for Mankind,
Where *Man* in EQUILIBRIO hung,
Is seldom Old, and never Young,
And from the Cradle to the Grave
Not Virtue's friend, nor Vice's slave;
As *Dancers* on the *Wire* we spy,
Hanging between the Earth and Sky.

SHE comes — I see her from afar
Bending her course to *Temple-Bar*:
All sage and silent is her train,
Deportment grave, and garments plain,
Such as may suit a *Parson's* wear,
And fit the Head-piece of a *Mayor*.

By TRUTH inspir'd, *our* BACON's force
Open'd the way to Learning's source ;
BOYLE thro' the works of NATURE ran ;
And NEWTON, something more than man,
Div'd into Nature's hidden springs,
Laid bare the principles of things,
Above the earth our spirits bore,
And gave us Worlds unknown before.
By TRUTH inspir'd, when *Lauder's* spight
O'er MILTON cast the Veil of Night,
DOUGLAS arose, and thro' the maze
Of intricate and winding ways,
Came where the subtle Traitor lay,
And dragg'd him trembling to the day ;
Whilst HE (O shame to noblest parts,
Dishonour to the Lib'ral Arts,
To traffic in so vile a scheme !)
Whilst HE, *our* Letter'd POLYPHEME,
Who had *Confed'rate* forces join'd,
Like a base Coward, skulk'd behind.
By TRUTH inspir'd, *our* Critics go
To track FINGAL in *Highland* snow,

To form their own and others *Creed*
From *Manuscripts* they cannot read.
By TRUTH inspir'd, we numbers see
Of each Profession and Degree,
Gentle and Simple, Lord and Cit,
Wit without wealth, wealth without wit;
When PUNCH and SHERIDAN have done,
To FANNY's *Ghostly Lectures* run;
By TRUTH and FANNY now inspir'd,
I feel my glowing bosom fir'd;
Desire beats high in ev'ry vein
To sing the SPIRIT of COCK-LANE;
To tell (just as the measure flows
In halting rhyme, half verse, half prose)
With more than mortal arts endued,
How *She* united force withstood,
And proudly gave a brave defiance
To *Wit* and *Dulness* in Alliance.

THIS *APPARITION* (with relation
To antient modes of *Derivation*,
This we may properly so call,
Although it ne'er appears at all,

As, by the way of *Inuendo*,
Lucus is made *à non lucendo*)
 Superior to the vulgar mode,
 Nobly disdains that servile road,
 Which Coward Ghosts, as it appears,
 Have walk'd in full five thousand years,
 And for restraint too mighty grown,
 Strikes out a method of *her own*.

OTHERS, may meanly start away,
 Aw'd by the Herald of the Day,
 With faculties too weak to bear
 The freshness of the Morning air,
 May vanish with the melting gloom,
 And glide in silence to the tomb;
She dares the Sun's most piercing light,
 And knocks by Day as well as Night;
Others, with mean and partial view,
 Their visits pay to *one* or *two*,
She, great in Reputation grown,
 Keeps the best Company in Town.
 Our active enterprising Ghost,
 As large and splendid Routs can boast

As those, which rais'd by PRIDE's command,
Block up the passage thro' the *Strand*.

GREAT adepts in the fighting trade,
Who serv'd their time on the *Parade*;
She Saints, who true to pleasure's plan,
Talk about God, and lust for man;
Wits, who believe nor God, nor Ghost,
And Fools, who worship ev'ry post;
Cowards, whose lips with war are hung;
Men truly brave, who hold their tongue;
Courtiers, who laugh they know not why,
And Cits, who for the same cause cry;
The canting Tabernacle Brother,
(For one Rogue still suspects another)
Ladies, who to a *Spirit* fly,
Rather than with their *Husbands* lie;
Lords, who as chastly pass their lives
With *other* Women as their *Wives*;
Proud of their intellects and cloaths,
Physicians, Lawyers, Parsons, Beaux,
And, truant from their desks and shops,
Spruce Temple Clerks, and 'Prentice Fops,
To FANNY come, with the same view
To find her false, or find her true.

HARK ! something creeps about the house !
 Is IT a *Spirit*, or a *Mouse* ?
 HARK ! something *scratches* round the room !
 A *Cat*, a *Rat*, a *stubb'd Birch-broom*.
 HARK ! on the wainscote now IT *knocks* !
 If Thou'rt a *Ghost*, cried ORTHODOX,
 With that affected *solemn air*
 Which HYPOCRITES delight to wear,
 And all those *forms* of CONSEQUENCE
 Which FOOLS adopt instead of *Sense*,
 If Thou'rt a *Ghost*, who from the tomb
 Stalk'st sadly *silent* thro' this gloom,
 In breach of NATURE'S stated laws,
 For *good*, or *bad*, or for *no* cause,
 Give *now* NINE knocks ; like PRIESTS of old,
 NINE we a *sacred Number* hold.

'PSHA, cried PROFOUND, (a man of parts
 Deep read in all the *curious* Arts,
 Who to their hidden springs had trac'd
 The force of NUMBERS, *rightly plac'd*)
 As to the NUMBER you are right,
 As to the *form* mistaken quite.
 What's NINE ?—Your ADEPTS all agree,
 The VIRTUE lies in *Three times Three*.

He said, no need to say it twice,
For THRICE She *knock'd*, and THRICE, and THRICE.

THE Croud, confounded and amaz'd,
In silence at each other gaz'd.
From CÆLIA's hand the Snuff-box fell,
TINSEL, who ogled with the Belle,
To pick it up attempts in vain,
He stoops, but cannot rise again.
Immane POMPOSO was not heard
T' import one crabbed foreign word.
Fear seizes Heroes, Fools, and Wits,
And PLAUSIBLE his pray'rs forgets.

At length, as People just awake,
Into wild dissonance they break;
All talk'd at once, but not a word
Was understood, or plainly heard.
Such is the noise of chatt'ring Geese
Slow sailing on the Summer breeze;
Such is the language DISCORD speaks
In *Welch* women o'er beds of *Leeks*;

Such the confus'd and horrid sounds
Of *Irish* in Potatoe grounds.

BUT tir'd, for even Woman's tongue
Is not on *Iron* hinges hung,
FEAR and CONFUSION found retreat,
REASON and ORDER take their seat.
The fact confirm'd beyond all doubt,
They now would find the causes out.
For this a sacred rule we find
Among the nicest of Mankind,
Which never might exception brook
From HOBBS e'en down to BOLINGBROKE,
To doubt of facts, however true,
Unless they know the causes too.

TRIFLE, of whom 'twas hard to tell
When he intended ill or well,
Who, to prevent all farther pother,
Probably meant nor one nor to'ther,
Who to be silent always loth,
Would speak on either side or both,
Who, led away by love of Fame,
If any new Idea came,

Whate'er it made for, always said it,
Not with an eye to Truth, but Credit.
For ORATORS *profest*, 'tis known,
Talk not for *our* sake, but their *own*;
Who always shew'd his talents best
When serious things were turn'd to jest,
And, under much impertinence,
Possess'd no common share of sense;
Who could deceive the flying hours,
To chat on Butterflies and Flow'rs;
Could talk of Powder, Patches, Paint,
With the same zeal as of a Saint;
Could prove a *Sibil* brighter far,
Than *Venus*, or the *Morning Star*;
Whilst something still so gay, so new,
The smile of approbation drew,
That Females ey'd the charming man,
And their hearts flutter'd with their Fan;
TRIFLE, who would by no means miss
An opportunity like this,
Proceeding on his usual plan,
Smil'd, strok'd his Chin, and thus began:

L

WITH *Sheers*, or *Scissars*, *Sword*, or *Knife*,
 When the Fates cut the thread of life,
 (For, if we to the Grave are sent,
 No matter with what *instrument*)
 The *Body* in some lonely spot,
 Or Dung-hill vile, is laid to rot,
 Or sleeps among more *holy* dead,
 With Pray'rs *irreverently* read;
 The Soul is sent, where Fate ordains,
 To reap rewards, or suffer pains.

THE VIRTUOUS to those mansions go,
 Where Pleasures unembitter'd flow,
 Where, *leading up* a jocund band,
 VIGOUR and YOUTH *dance* hand in hand,
 Whilst ZEPHYR with *harmonious* gales
 PIPES softest *Music* thro' the vales,
 And SPRING and FLORA, gaily crown'd,
 With *Velvet Carpets* spread the ground;
 With *livelier blush* where Roses bloom,
 And every shrub *expires perfume*,
 Where *chrystal* streams *mæandring glide*,
 Where *warbling* flows the *amber tide*,

Where other *Suns* dart brighter beams,
And *LIGHT* thro' *purser æther* streams.

FAR other seats, far diff'rent state
The Sons of Wickedness await.
JUSTICE (not that *old Hag* I mean,
Who's nightly in the *Garden* seen,
Who lets no spark of *Mercy* rise
For Crimes, *by which men lose their eyes* ;
Nor *HER*, who with an equal hand,
Weighs *Tea* and *Sugar* in the *STRAND* ;
Nor *HER*, who by the World deem'd *wife*,
Deaf to the Widow's piercing cries,
Steel'd 'gainst the starving Orphan's tears,
On *Pawns* her base *Tribunal* rears ;
But *HER*, who after *Death* presides,
Whom sacred *TRUTH* unerring guides,
Who, free from partial influence,
Nor sinks, nor raises *Evidence*,
Before whom nothing's in the dark,
Who takes no *bribe*, and keeps no *Clerk*)
JUSTICE with equal scale below,
In due proportion weighs out woe,

THE GHOST.

And always with such lucky aim
Knows punishments so fit to frame,
That she augments their grief and pain,
Leaving no Reason to complain.

SLOVENS and *Beaux* are join'd together,
Coquettes and *Prudes*, like *April* weather,
Wit's forc'd to *Chum* with *Common Sense*,
And *Lust* is yok'd to *Impotence*.
PROFESSORS (*Justice* so decreed)
Unpaid must constant *Lectures* read;
On Earth it often doth befall,
They're *paid*, and *never read at all*.
Parsons must practice what they teach,
And *B—ps* are compell'd to preach.

SHE, who on earth was nice and prim,
Of delicacy full, and whim,
Whose tender Nature could not bear
The rudeness of the churlish air,
Is doom'd, to mortify her pride,
The change of weather to abide,
And fells, whilst tears with liquor mix,
Burnt Brandy on the Shore of STYX.

AVARO, by long use grown bold
In ev'ry ill which brings him gold,
Who his REDEEMER would pull down,
And sell his GOD for Half a Crown,
Who, if some Block-head should be willing
To lend him on his Soul a Shilling,
A well-made bargain would esteem it,
And have more sense than to redeem it,
JUSTICE shall in those shades confine,
To drudge for PLUTUS in the Mine,
All the Day long to toil and roar,
And cursing work the stubborn ore,
For Coxcombs *here* who have no brains,
Without a Sixpence for his pains.
Thence, with each due return of Night,
COMPELL'D the *tall*, *thin*, half-starv'd SPRITE,
-Shall earth re-visit, and survey
The place where once his treasure lay,
Shall view the *stall*, where *holy* PRIDE,
With *letter'd* IGNORANCE allied,
Once hail'd him mighty and ador'd,
Descended to another Lord.
Then shall *He* screaming pierce the air,
Hang his lank jaws, and scowl despair ;

Then shall *He* ban at Heav'n's decrees,
And howling sink to Hell for ease.

THOSE, who on Earth thro' life have past
With equal pace from first to last,
Nor vex'd with passions, nor with spleen,
Insipid, easy, and serene,
Whose heads were made too weak to bear
The weight of business, or of care,
Who without *Merit*, without *Crime*,
Contriv'd to while away their time,
Nor Good, nor Bad, nor Fools, nor Wits,
Mild JUSTICE with a smile permits,
Still to pursue their darling plan,
And find amusement how they can.

THE BEAU, in gaudiest plumage drest,
With lucky Fancy, o'er the rest
Of AIR a curious mantle throws,
And chats among his Brother BEAUX;
Or, if the weather's fine and clear,
No sign of rain or tempest near,
Encourag'd by the cloudless day,
Like gilded *Butterflies* at play,

So lively All, so gay, so brisk,
In AIR They *flutter, float, and frisk.*

THE BELLE (what mortal doth not know,
BELLES after death admire a BEAU?)
With happy grace renews her art,
To trap the Coxcomb's wand'ring heart.
And after death, as whilst they live,
A heart is *all* which BEAUX can give.

IN some still solemn sacred shade,
Behold a group of AUTHORS laid.
News-paper WITS, and SONNETEERS,
Gentlemen BARDS, and Rhiming PEERS,
BIOGRAPHERS, whose wond'rous worth,
Is scarce remember'd now on earth,
Whom FIELDING'S *humour* led astray,
And *plaintive* FOPS, debauch'd by GRAY,
All fit together in a ring,
And laugh, and prattle, write and sing.

ON his *own* works, with *laurel* crown'd,
Neatly and *elegantly* bound,

(For this is *one* of many rules,
 With *writing Lords* and *laureat Fools*,
 And which for ever must succeed
 With *other Lords* who cannot *read*,
 However destitute of wit,
 To make their works for *BOOKCASE* fit)
 Acknowledg'd Master of those feats,
 CIBBER his *Birth-Day Odes* repeats.

WITH Triumph *now* possess that seat,
 With Triumph *now* thy Odes repeat,
 Unrivall'd Vigils proudly keep,
 Whilst ev'ry hearer's lull'd to sleep,
 But know, *Illustrious BARD*, when *Fate*,
 Which still pursues thy name with hate,
 The *Regal Laurel* blasts, which now
 Blooms on the placid WHITEHEAD's brow,
 Low must descend thy Pride and Fame,
 And CIBBER's be the second Name.

HERE TRIFLE cough'd (for *Coughing* still
 Bears witness to the *Speaker's* skill,
 A necessary piece of art,
 Of *Rhet'ric* an essential part,

All *Adepts* in the Speaking trade
 Keep a *Cough* by them *ready made*,
 Which they successfully dispense
 When at a loss for *words* or *sense*)
 Here TRIFLE cough'd, here paus'd—but while
 He strove to recollect his *smile*,
 That happy engine of his art,
 Which triumph'd o'er the female heart,
 CREDULITY, the Child of FOLLY,
 Begot on *Cloyster'd* MELANCHOLLY,
 Who heard with grief the florid Fool
 Turn sacred things to ridicule,
 And saw him, led by WHIM away,
 Still farther from the subject stray,
 Just in the happy nick, aloud
 In shape of M—E address'd the Crowd.

WERE we with Patience here to sit,
 Dupes to th' impertinence of Wit,
 Till TRIFLE his harangue should end,
 A *Greenland* Night we might attend,
 Whilst He, with fluency of speech,
 Would various *mighty nothings* teach,

N

(Here TRIFLE, sternly looking down,
 Gravely endeavour'd at a Frown,
 But NATURE unawares slept in,
 And, mocking, turn'd it to a Grin)
 And when, in FANCY's Chariot hurl'd,
 We had been carried round the world,
 Involv'd in error still and doubt,
 He'd leave us where we first set out.
 Thus *Soldiers* (in whose exercise
Material use with Grandeur vies)
 Lift up their legs with mighty pain,
 Only to set them down again.

BELIEVE ye not (yes, all I see
 In sound belief concur with me)
 That PROVIDENCE for worthy ends,
 To us unknown, *this* SPIRIT sends?
 Tho' speechless lay the trembling tongue,
 Your *Faith* was on your Features hung,
 Your *Faith* I in your eyes could see
 When *all* were pale and star'd like *me*.
 But scruples to prevent, and root
 Out ev'ry shadow of dispute,

POMPOSO, PLAUSIBLE, and I,
With FANNY have agreed, to try
A deep concerted scheme. This night,
To fix, or to destroy HER quite.
If it be *True*, before we've done
We'll make it glaring as the Sun;
If it be *false*, admit no doubt,
E're Morning's dawn we'll find it out.
Into the vaulted womb of Death,
Where FANNY now, depriv'd of breath,
Lies fest'ring, whilst her troubled *Sprite*
Adds horror to the gloom of night,
Will *We* descend, and bring from thence
Proofs of such force to Common Sense,
Vain *Triflers* shall no more deceive,
And ATHEISTS tremble, and believe.

He said, and ceas'd; the Chamber rung
With due applause from ev'ry tongue.
The mingled sound (now let me see,
Something by way of *Simile*)
Was it more like *Strymonian Cranes*,
Or *Winds*, low murm'ring, when it rains,

Or *drowsy hum of clust'ring Bees,*
 Or the *hoarse roar of angry Seas,*
 Or (still to heighten and explain,
 For else our *Simile* is vain)
 Shall we declare it like *all four,*
A Scream, a Murmur, Hum, and Roar?

LET FANCY now in awful state
 Present this *great TRIUMVIRATE,*
 (A method which receiv'd we find
 In *other* cases by mankind)
Elected with a joint consent
 All *Fools* in Town to represent.

THE Clock strikes Twelve — M—E starts and swears,
 In *Oaths* we know as well as *Pray'rs*
 RELIGION lies, and a *Church Brother*
 May use at will or one or t'other;
 PLAUSIBLE, from his Cassock drew,
 A holy Manual, seeming new,
 A Book it was of *private Pray'r,*
 But not a pin the worse for wear,
 For, as we by the bye may say,
 None but *small Saints* in private pray.

THE GHOST.

RELIGION, fairest Maid on earth,
 As meek as good, who drew her birth
 From that blest union, when in heaven
 PLEASURE was Bride to VIRTUE given,
 RELIGION, ever pleas'd to pray,
 Possess'd the precious gift one day;
 HYPOCRISY, of CUNNING born,
 Crept in and stole it e'er the morn.
 WH—TF—D, that greatest of all Saints,
 Who always prays, and never faints,
 Whom SHE to her *own Brothers* bore,
 RAPINE and LUST, on SEVERN's shore,
 Receiv'd it from the *squinting* Dame;
 From *Him* to PLAUSIBLE it came,
 Who, with unusual care oppress'd,
 Now trembling pull'd it from his breast.
 Doubts in his boding heart arise,
 And fancied Spectres blast his eyes.
 DEVOTION springs from abject *fear*,
 And stamps his Pray'rs for *once* sincere.

POMPOSO (insolent and loud,
 Vain idol of a *scribbling* croud,

O

Whose very name inspires an awe,
Whose ev'ry word is Sense and Law,
For what his Greatness hath decreed,
Like Laws of PERSIAN and of MEDÉ,
Sacred thro' all the realm of *Wit*,
Must never of Repeal admit ;
Who, cursing flatt'ry, is the tool
Of ev'ry fawning flatt'ring fool ;
Who Wit with jealous eye surveys,
And fickens at another's praise ;
Who, proudly seiz'd of *Learning's* throne,
Now damns all Learning but his own ;
Who scorns those common wares to trade in,
Reas'ning, Convincing, and Persuading,
But makes each Sentence current pass
With *Puppy, Coxcomb, Scoundrel, Ass,*
For 'tis with *him* a certain rule,
The Folly's prov'd, when He calls Fool ;
Who, to increase his native strength,
Draws words, fix syllables in length,
With which, assisted with a frown,
By way of Club, he knocks us down ;
Who 'bove the Vulgar dares to rise,
And sense of *Decency* defies,

For this same *Decency* is made
Only for Bunglers in the trade;
And, like the *Cobweb Laws*, is still
Broke thro' by *Great ones* when they will) —
Pomposo, with *strong sense* supplied,
Supported, and confirm'd by *Pride*,
His Comrades' terrors to beguile,
Grin'd horribly a ghastly smile :
Features so horrid, were it light,
Would put the Devil himself to flight.

SUCH were the *Three* in Name and Worth,
Whom ZEAL and JUDGMENT singled forth
To try the *Sprite* on REASON's plan,
Whether it was of *God* or *Man*.

DARK was the Night ; it was that Hour,
When TERROR reigns in fullest Pow'r,
When, as the Learn'd of old have said,
The yawning Grave gives up her dead,
When MURDER, RAPINE by her side,
Stalks o'er the earth with *Giant* stride ;
Our QUIXOTES (for that *Knight* of old
Was not in Truth by half so bold,

Tho' REASON at the same time cries
 Our QUIXOTES are not half so wise,
 Since they with other follies boast
 An Expedition 'gainst a *Ghost*)
 Thro' the dull deep surrounding gloom
 In close array tow'rd FANNY's tomb
 Adventur'd forth—CAUTION before
 With heedful step the *lantborn* bore,
 Pointing at Graves, and in the Rear,
 Trembling, and *talking loud*, went FEAR.
 The Church-yard teem'd—th' unsettled ground,
 As in an Ague, shook around;
 While in some dreary vault confin'd,
 Or riding on the hollow *Wind*,
 HORROR, which turns the heart to stone,
 In dreadful sounds was heard to groan.
 All staring, wild, and out of breath,
 At length they reach the place of death.

A VAULT it was, long time applied
 To hold the last remains of *Pride*:
 No Beggar there, of humble race,
 And humble fortunes, finds a place;

To rest in *Pomp* as well as *Ease*
 The only way's to pay the *Fees*.
 FOOLS, ROGUES, and WHORES, if *Rich and Great*,
 Proud e'en in death, HERE rot in *State*.
 No Thieves disrobe the *well-drest* Dead,
 No Plumbers steal the *sacred* lead,
 Quiet and safe the Bodies lie,
 No SEXTONS *sell*, no SURGEONS *buy*.

THRICE each the pond'rous key apply'd,
 And *Thrice* to turn it vainly try'd,
 Till taught by *Prudence* to unite,
 And straining with collected might,
 The stubborn wards resist no more,
 But open flies the *growling* door.

THREE paces back They fell amaz'd,
 Like *Statues* stood, like *Madmen* gaz'd.
 The frighted blood forsakes the face,
 And seeks the heart with quicker pace;
 The throbbing heart its fears declares,
 And upright stand the bristled hairs;
 The head in wild distraction swims;
 Cold sweats bedew the trembling limbs;

P

NATURE, whilst Fears her bosom chill,
Suspends her Pow'rs, and LIFE stands still.

THUS had they stood till *now*, but SHAME
(An useful, tho' neglected Dame,
By Heav'n design'd the Friend of Man,
Tho' we degrade Her all we can,
And strive, as our first proof of Wit,
Her Name and Nature to forget)
Came to their aid in happy hour,
And with a wand of mighty pow'r
Struck on their hearts; vain *Fears* subside,
And baffled leave the field to PRIDE.

SHALL THEY, (forbid it *Fame*) shall THEY
The dictates of vile Fear obey?
Shall They, the *Idols* of the Town,
To *Bugbears Fancy-form'd* bow down?
Shall They, who greatest zeal exprest,
And undertook for all the rest,
Whose matchless Courage all admire,
Inglorious from the task retire?
How would the *Wicked Ones* rejoice,
And *Infidels* exalt their voice,

If M—E and PLAUSIBLE were found,
By *shadows* aw'd, to quit their ground?
How would *Fools* laugh, should It appear
POMPOSO was the slave of Fear?

“ Perish the thought! tho’ to our eyes
“ In all its terrors *Hell* should rise,
“ Tho’ thousand Ghosts in dread array,
“ With glaring eye-balls cross our way,
“ Tho’ CAUTION trembling stands aloof,
“ Still will we on, and dare the proof.”
They said, and without farther halt,
Dauntless march’d onward to the VAULT.

WHAT mortal men, whoe’er drew breath,
Shall break into the House of DEATH
With foot *unhallow’d*, and from thence
The Myst’ries of that State dispense,
Unless they with due rites prepare
Their weaker sense, such fights to bear,
And gain permission from the *State*,
On Earth their journal to relate?
POETS themselves, without a crime,
Cannot attempt it e’en in *Rhime*,

But always on such grand occasion,
 Prepare a *solemn Invocation*,
 A *Poſy* for grim PLUTO weave,
 And in ſmooth numbers aſk his leave.
 But why this Caution? why prepare
 Rites needleſs now, for *thrice* in air
 The SPIRIT of the NIGHT hath *ſneez'd*,
 And *thrice* hath clap'd his wings well-pleas'd.

DESCEND then TRUTH, and guard my ſide,
 My *Muſe*, my *Patroneſs*, and *Guide*!
 Let Others at Invention aim,
 And ſeek by falſities for fame;
 Our Story wants not at this time,
Flounces and *Furbelows* in Rhime:
 Relate plain Facts; be brief and bold;
 And let the POETS, fam'd of *old*,
 Seek, whiſt our artleſs tale we tell,
 In vain to find a PARALLEL:
 SILENT ALL THREE WENT IN, ABOUT
 ALL THREE TURN'D SILENT, AND CAME OUT.

END OF THE SECOND BOOK.

